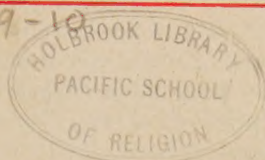


MAY 1950

V. 95: 1-7, 9-10  
Jan. 5., N.-D.  
1950



BIBLE  
SOCIETY

# Record



Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York signs the "Good Will book." It is being signed by many other Governors



## During 1949 the Society—

- distributed at home and abroad 574,931 Bibles, 923,034 Testaments and 7,324,915 Portions, a total of 8,822,880;
- reached a total of 25,237,222 volumes issued through its World Emergency program of 9½ years and distributed to service men, prisoners of war, displaced persons and civilian populations in Europe and Asia;
- furnished to affiliated Bible societies (Japan, Germany and Korea) printing and binding materials from which an estimated three million volumes of the Scriptures were printed;
- issued 925,424 copies of the Sermon on the Mount, in five languages, an increase of 300% over 1948;
- expended \$65,000 for Scriptures supplied to the chaplains of the Armed Forces and Veterans Hospitals, the largest peacetime expenditure for this purpose;
- exceeded any former year in distribution to the blind, sending out 8,436 volumes and 10,375 Talking Book records, a total of 18,811, an increase of 14% over 1948;
- witnessed a still greater expansion of Worldwide Bible Reading, Thanksgiving to Christmas, both in this country and abroad;

- still further enlarged its publishing programs abroad not only in Germany and Japan, but also in China, Korea, the Near East and South America;
- acted as host to the Council of United Bible Societies for its fourth Annual Meeting bringing together delegates and official visitors from 20 countries to discuss the common responsibility and problems of getting the Scriptures effectively to the whole world;
- adopted for 1950 for its regular work a budget of \$2,498,500;
- but faced the necessity of seeking in 1950 not only an even greater amount for its regular budget but approximately \$800,000 additional to meet continuing World Emergency needs, particularly in China, Japan, Korea and Germany.*

### Board of Managers' Report Available

As this issue of the *Bible Society Record* goes to press, the Board of Managers' Report for 1949 is just about ready for presentation to the Annual Meeting of the Society, May 11. The edition of this report, attractively bound as an illustrated brochure entitled "He Restoreth My Soul," is limited, but copies will be sent as long as the supply lasts to anyone who sends ten cents in stamp to cover handling and postage.

## Late Word from China

THE publication and distribution of the Scriptures goes on in China, in spite of many difficulties. Secretary McGavin, who represents the British and Scottish Societies at the China Bible House and who has been for some months in Hongkong, supervising the publicity of Chinese Scriptures there, has been refused a visa to return to Shanghai, where he had planned to relieve Secretary Mortensen, who is already overdue for furlough. Dr. Mortensen writes:

We will carry on under the circumstances . . . , expecting that something in the nature of a furlough will come in due course. There is a wonderful spirit abroad for the work of the Bible Society, and we anticipate no great difficulties, except from the lower economic level of some churches, due to war conditions.

He reported that there were 53 active distribution centers throughout the country and that, though the circulation figures were lower, they were encouraging, in view of the conditions.

From Hongkong, M. McGavin writes:

You would be interested to know that Bibles have been coming off the press in Hongkong for about two months and, although we cannot send into China, the demands from outside of China are very great, and it will take some time to meet the needs of those places. Supplies have been sent to Malaya, Indonesia, the Philippines, Formosa and even to Japan; and both Malaya and Indonesia state their need for large supplies during the current year.

Mr. McGavin also encloses a letter he recently received from Rev. Joseph B. Matson, reporting on work being done for Nationalist refugees in Hongkong:

In behalf of the over two thousand Nationalist refugees at the camp here in Hong Kong, we want to sincerely thank you for the twelve hundred and fifty Gospel portions

you so graciously gave us. We had been working among them for a few weeks, preaching to them out of the Word and their desire to have some portion of the Bible for themselves increased daily. These destitute people were most eager to hear about Jesus and His Word and, before these Gospel portions were given them, were daily begging us for Bibles.

The day we gave out the first allotment of eight hundred Portions received from you, there was a most stirring sight to behold. The hospital and charity societies at the camp where they stayed chartered a ship and arranged for twelve hundred of the refugees to be moved to Taiwan. Most of these, except the blind, were lined up for long distance on both sides of the entrance gate at the wharf, sitting among their few belongings in the cold, waiting patiently for hours for all to arrive before boarding the ship. At this moment we came, telling them we had come to see them off, and then distributed the Gospels. The eagerness with which they reached for these was indeed a sight to behold and will never be forgotten. The police standing by notice the commotion and wondered what unusual treasures were giving out that caused the refugees to grab for them so eagerly.

The Portions from the last allotment you sent were given out to the many that are attending the Bible class. More refugees are pouring in from interior China, and the numbers coming to the class is daily increasing. This is a golden opportunity, and we certainly appreciate how the Bible Society has helped us. But surely the greatest expression of thankfulness comes from the refugees themselves by the manner in which they are reading the Portions. Coming into the camp, you will see them everywhere in groups reading, with the blind listening in. Nearly two hundred have made definite confessions of believing in Jesus as their Saviour.



# Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE  
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 95 MAY · 1950 NUMBER 5

## For a Good Old Summer Time, Read the Bible!

WILL YOU be reading your Bible this summer?

If you want to join an increasing number of people, you will attend to your Scripture reading in the summer time.

Summer brings for most of us an opportunity for reflection and leisure denied us in the other busy months of the year. Summer also brings each year an increasing number of conferences where many young people in a "quiet hour" or "morning watch" begin the

habit of daily Bible reading. The impetus given Bible reading by summer conferences is incalculable.

When people find in the summer's out-of-doors experiences a kinship with people of Bible times—people who lived under the blue vault of the Palestinian sky, who walked along dusty roads, who climbed rugged hills and rested in shady valleys, who rode in boats on placid inland lakes, who ate their frugal meals in the open, who sang of the wonder of the star-flecked heavens and heard the voice of God in gardens, who knew the cleansing liveliness of the rain, who saw the birds of the heavens and the creatures of land and sea, who had festivals of seed-time and harvest—in brief, the Bible is filled with stories which are set against the background of the growing-time of the year.



Nowhere is this more evident than in the life of Our Lord. Jesus lived in the out-of-doors, the record clearly says. He spent time in the mountains, beside the rippling Jordan, upon the Sea of Galilee. He preached in the open air, healed by the roadside, walked from one end of Palestine to the other, going even through hot Samaria.

As you prepare for your summer, does the Bible have a place in your plans? Will your

vacation be more blessed because someone thought to take along a Bible? Is there at least a Gospel in the auto pocket, so that it will be available for reading aloud by some member of the family as you tour?

Elsewhere in this issue there is an article called "Getting More Out of Your Bible." There is no better time than the summer time to begin to practice the suggestions made in this article. Read it as soon as you can and begin the summer right by planning really to get more out of your Bible.

One day, as you look back on the summer of 1950, the mid-year period in a significant year in world history, you can say: that summer, the summer of 1950, was the summer when I began to grow spiritually. *That* was the summer when I began to read my Bible!



# "The Most Essential Work I Know"

*This title is culled from a stirring address given by General Bonner F. Fellers of the United States Army (Rtd.) before a luncheon held in New York on April 12, 1950. The Society's program of obtaining signatures for its Japan "Good Will book" was launched at this luncheon*

BY ROBERT T. TAYLOR

"THE only solution to current world unrest is not force or military might, but sound spiritual values."

So said General Bonner F. Fellers, U.S.A. (Rtd.), at the luncheon last month sponsored by the American Bible Society to mark the Society's launching of a campaign to effectuate the distribution of ten million copies of the Scriptures in Japan before the close of 1951. The luncheon was attended by a list of distinguished religious and business leaders.

General Fellers, who served on the staff of General Douglas A. MacArthur in the Philippines and Japan, was introduced by Brigadier General Cornelius W. Wickersham, U.S.A. (Rtd.), who presided. General Wickersham served on the staff of General Dwight Eisenhower during the war.

Japan ultimately will become a Christian nation, predicted General Fellers. Shintoism and Buddhism, the religions which had sustained Japan during the period of victories, were all right while the Japanese were winning, he said; but these were religions of patriotism only, and the collapse of the Japanese military forces created a vacuum in the minds and hearts of the Japanese people which led to a resurgence of dormant Christianity in Japan. General Fellers, who was one of the first American soldiers to set foot on Japanese soil, gripped the attention of the group as he described the amazing scenes in Japan immediately after the surrender:

"The ink had hardly dried on the surrender document, when approximately 500,000 Christians throughout the nation became active. These Christians, many of whom had been in jail because they refused to disavow their faith, not only reopened churches which had been closed by the militarists, but in many cases held church services in their homes. The people who were attracted to these services found in Christianity a religion of compassion which would help and sustain them. Many American GI's wandering the streets would hear the services from the streets and enter the homes to join in the prayers."

The Gospel must be brought to the Japanese people, said General Fellers. "They must have it," he said. He described the work being accomplished by the American Bible Society "as the most essential work I know."

Digressing from Japan for a moment, General Fellers said that the Russian people are now just as starved spiritually as the Japanese people were before and during the war.

The Russian people, he said, would be just as responsive as the Japanese people if they but knew the truth.

"There is an Iron Curtain, not to keep us from learning about Russia, but to keep the Russian peo-



*Snapped at the luncheon in New York, April 12, launching the American Bible Society's campaign for 10,000,000 Bibles for Japan; left to right, General Bonner F. Fellers, Mary Shimizu, Daniel Burke, President of the American Bible Society, Susy Shimizu, Brigadier General Cornelius W. Wickersham*

ple from learning about us. If the Russians knew the freedom and dignity and liberty that are enjoyed even in Europe—to say nothing of America—it is my firm belief that the Kremlin leaders could not hold them down. They are starved spiritually.

"We have to outlaw the concept of hate. Love for our fellow men, which comes from the Gospel, is today our only hope. I feel and think and believe that we shall have the ingenuity to penetrate the Iron Curtain and make our peace with the Russian people."

Concluding, General Fellers said: "That is the thought I would like to leave with you. Certainly we must go on with Japan, because it is the most important work I know. The Japanese are a race of people that is going to become Christian; it is coming right out of the Emperor's palace. The Empress Dowager has said, 'What my people need now is Christianity.'

"As you know, we have an American woman teaching the Crown Prince. The next Emperor of Japan will, unquestionably, be a Christian.

"Let us keep firmly in mind that the only solution we have to the world's problems is not force, not military might, but sound spiritual values."

A sample page of the "Good Will book," which when completed will contain the signatures of ever



person who contributes to the Bible Society's distribution project, was exhibited at the conclusion of the luncheon, and immediately there was a rush by many of the guests to sign the page. The "Good Will Book" will ultimately be forwarded to Japan for presentation to the Japan Bible Society for permanent inclusion in its archives.

## Scriptures for Formosa

BY ANNIE L. MONTGOMERY

THE Island of Formosa, which the people living there call Taiwan, is just now in the center of world news as the headquarters of the Nationalist government of China. It is therefore a matter of concern to all who are anxious that God's Word shall speak with authority and power, that Taiwan shall be adequately supplied with the Scriptures. The following is a brief report reflecting some of the problems confronting the churches of the Island in these critical days:

During the war years Taiwan suffered a great lack of Bibles and Christian and other literature.

After things opened up again, the two Bible Society agencies in Tainan and Taipeh found it hard to keep in stock the volumes in demand. In January 1949 the China Sunday School Union, with headquarters in Shanghai, opened a branch in Taipeh. They were asked to take over the agency in connection with their book room. The Bible House in Shanghai made them a depository and sent a large supply of many varieties of Scriptures. This timely action seems truly a miracle that calls forth continued thankfulness from many hearts. Mr. Phillips, formerly in charge of the Nanchang, China Bible Agency came to Taiwan just at the time, to give his expert help in setting up the detailed records that must be kept of stock and sales.

There are some cases of refugee Christians who have clung to their Bibles while leaving almost everything else behind in hasty escape and hard journeys, but most have come without complete Bibles and are eager to get new copies. Many new believers are eagerly waiting to study the Word of God. People are wanting to know what the Christian's Book is. English Bible classes are popular both for the language advantages and a desire to know more of God's Word.

Taiwan has great language problems. The Amoy dialect of Chinese is the native tongue. The Churches have used a fine system of romanized transcription. Japanese was the language of the schools for ten years and is the most easily read and is used by many who had schooling. Japanese is the language, other than tribal dialects, known to the aboriginal tribes, who make up about 150,000 of the Island's 2,000,000 people and to whom perhaps another 4,000,000 have been added as people have flooded in from the mainland. Since the Chinese came in, government schools conduct their work in Mandarin, the official Chinese dialect. There is also a great interest in English as a common language.

The Amoy Bibles and Testaments; the Kuoyü ("national language"), which means the Chinese characters read with Mandarin or dialect pronunciation; English; and bilingual English and Chinese characters; and Greek

Scriptures, are all on sale here. We have been asked for Japanese and German Scriptures, but have not been able to furnish them. All of these factors indicate how complicated the language problem is in Taiwan.

The smaller editions of Testaments and Bibles have been in demand for soldiers and airmen, and are all gone! Gospel portions have been used in reaching service men. The famine for Scriptures is again on the horizon. May God's grace prevent it!

## Gospels for Sale in Russia

SECRETARY A. L. Haig, who for many years has superintended the work of the British and Foreign Bible Society on the continent of Europe, in a recent letter to London included the following paragraph, giving an encouraging sidelight on the large consignment of Scriptures which the American Bible Society was able to ship to Russia in 1947:

I recently had a letter from an English lady who was employed in the British embassy at Moscow, in which she told me that she had bought a number of Russian Gospels at Zajorsk near Moscow. She had seen them put out for sale on a stall together with pictures of saints, etc., in the monastery. She remembers that they were paper Gospels with colored covers and had been printed in America. She gave them all away. These were no doubt your Gospels, and it is nice to think that some, at least, were being circulated.

### Pitjantjatjara!

Bird, beast or fish? No; it is the name of one of the ten languages added in 1949 to the list of those into which some part of the Bible has been translated and published. The list now totals 1,118, with the entire Bible available in 190, the complete New Testament in 245 more, at least a Gospel or other whole Book of the Bible in 591 more, and only selections in 92 more. During 1949 two languages attained their first whole Bibles—the Faroe, spoken in the islands bearing that name and lying north of Scotland; and the Shona, one of the languages of Southern Rhodesia, Africa.

There were four languages reported as having achieved their first complete New Testaments—the Kisii, spoken in the Kenya Colony in East Africa; the Timorese, one of the many languages of Indonesia; Biza-Lala, spoken in Northern Rhodesia; and the Rhodesian Tonga. The ten new languages, with their locale and the Scriptures appearing in them, were as follows:

Biete	India	Mark
Chaouia	North Africa	Selections
Chin: Anal	Burma	Mark
Hula	Papua	Matthew
Loma	Liberia	Mark
Piro	Peru	Mark
Pitjantjatjara	Australia	Mark
Tarascan	Mexico	John
Wewjewa	Sumba, Indonesia	Luke
Zapotec: Sierra		
Juarez, Pue-		
blo Atepec	Mexico	Selections



# Mossi Knapsacks for New Testaments

*The Mossi people speak the Moré language. They are 2,000,000 strong and live just south of the Sahara Desert in West Africa. This story of missionary work among them is told by one of the missionaries of the Assemblies of God, who is now working on the translation of the Old Testament into Moré*

BY JOHN F. HALL

IT is curious what a muddled conception Americans have of Africa. Or is it? Missionaries themselves seem to be contradictory in their statements concerning food, dress (or lack of it!), climate, occupation and customs. Well, now let us ask ourselves what we would write to the African girl who asked her American pen-pal, "How do you live in America?" What would we say? If one from Maine or California, Texas or Minnesota replied, however honestly, the African pen-pal would be as confused as those of us who try to conceive of life in Africa, as though it were the same everywhere.

Missionaries working in jungle areas are ill at ease when they visit our desert-like Sudan country, and similarly we have a hemmed-in sense of frustration induced by the towering vegetation of the jungle and its limited travel opportunities. The Mossi are great travelers.

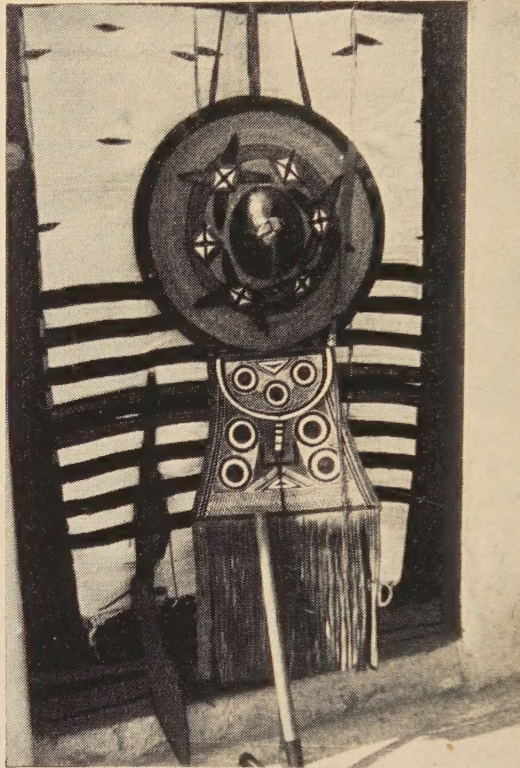
The itchy feet of thousands impel them to go on long journeys, and they are in demand as servants and day laborers in coastal areas. Their ability as blacksmiths, leather-workers, weavers and dyers gains them ready acceptance in areas where tribespeople need them. In the World Dominion survey of West Africa it is stated that the Mossi tribe is the key to the situation in West Africa. The Mossi have been a conquering people and chafe under the subjection of French rule. Those who become real, born-again Christians manifest those firm traits wherever they go in labor groups. Missionaries of other areas comment favorably to us on the conduct of Mossi Christians, who so faithfully attend their mission services, though at first they get little because of language differences.

The Mossi carry their New Testaments with them in the type of leather knapsack displayed in the accompanying picture. The colored designs are of split leather appliquéed by men leather-workers. They make their own vegetable dyes and work out their varying designs. The fringe is of leather, with its

characteristic design. Our first home-made multi-graphed New Testaments were rather bulky, but since the American Bible Society has published our New Testament, it is a handy, compact volume which

the Mossi cherish. The Society is encouraging us to continue with the translation of the Old Testament, so we have completed the rough drafts of Genesis, Proverbs, Daniel, Jonah, part of Isaiah and Esther.

Common among the products of Mossi handcraft are other items also. In the picture appears a typical hand-made Mossi straw hat, with its varicolored leather designs fastened on with leather pins. A long leather band allows the Mossi to push his hat off at will, till it dangles on his back as he walks. This hat serves admirably also as a market basket! In the picture are also seen two very familiar Mossi weapons—the sheathed sword and the tomahawk which the men carry on their shoulders so easily, but which are ready for instant use. We saw the results of these dread weapons on two occasions in the Ouahigouya dis-



*The details of this picture are described in the story*

trict—a man with his head laid open nearly to his shoulders by a curved scimitar, and two Christian young men later, who were laid out with a tomahawk. Let me describe the latter incident in detail.

Somtèda and Yéléso mdé were chums. Both had learned to read the New Testament in their own Moré language. Somtèda's father hated the Gospel and sought occasion to avenge himself. One day, as his son Somtèda sat reading his New Testament aloud, the father ordered him to go on an errand across town. Somtèda looked at the fast-approaching thunderstorm and decided to wait until it had passed. As he settled down to read again, his father flew into a rage and struck him on the head with his tomahawk. As he raised the weapon to strike again, Yéléso mdé grappled with him, and in the struggle the infuriated father struck him on the head also. Relatives rushed upon the cursing, furious father and



verpowered him. The two boys lay unconscious. The father heaped terrible invectives on his own son and his chum, and said they should never come into his home again.

A Christian messenger came to us at the mission and entreated us to have the French government arrest Somtèda's father. We knew what the Scripture says to do, and counseled with the messenger, pointing out what God's Word says. Later we went to a fellowship meeting. Somtèda and Yélésondé were there, but had such stiff necks that they still had to turn their whole body to look at anything. After emptying a five-gallon tin of gasoline into the old car, we were suddenly impressed to call a small boy and send the empty can—a much-coveted gift—to Somtèda's father, with the message that God's Book says to do good to those who hate you and despitefully use you. Probably dreading a cursing, the boy hesitated, but finally went on the errand. After a while he returned, saying the can was accepted. That night, as a large crowd gathered near the Coleman gasoline lantern to hear the Gospel singing and preaching, one of the Christians nudged me and whispered excitedly, "Somtèda's father is there, among the town elders, listening!" Next morning early, a messenger appeared at the local pastor's

compound with word from Somtèda's father that his son might again return home and that the curses were revoked. Praise God when we do things His way instead of some way we think up. The results are always happier.

Later on Somtèda was drafted into the French Army and served during the World War in the Senegalese Regiment. All the time he carried his Moré New Testament in his army knapsack and read it faithfully. We had letters from him from time to time from his various bivouacs, and we sent him any fresh translation work produced for the Christian Mossi. Other Mossi Christians also carried their New Testaments with them in the armed services, and as a result were able to maintain their faith in Christ amidst the most adverse circumstances and temptations surrounding army camps. Oh, how we praise God for the cooperation of the American Bible Society in the printing of the precious, eternal Word of God in various foreign languages!

Many West-African languages remain as yet not reduced to writing. Let us pray that still more trained linguists shall be raised up of God to tackle this tremendous task, because this "gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness."

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## Bible Advance in Uruguay

BY C. W. TURNER

It is a great pleasure to announce that the work of the United Bible Societies in Uruguay has become further consolidated through the formation of an Advisory Council. At a meeting held in the Central Methodist Church in Montevideo on September 23, 1949 a group of ministers and laymen of six different denominations gathered for the purpose of forming this Advisory Council. The following are its officers and members: Rev. C. T. Gattinoni, President; Rev. Silvio Long, Vice President; Rev. R. Alvarez Blanco, Recording Secretary; Mr. Aldo Tosi, Corresponding Secretary; and Rev. Tudor L. Isaacs, Rev. Warren A. Nyberg, Mr. John T. Stanley, Mr. W. K. Goodson, Rev. William Orrick, Dr. Rafael R. Hill, Mr. Juan Tigoni, Mr. T. V. Sand, Mr. Julio Barreiro and Mr. A. Sommer. Rev. C. W. Turner, Executive Secretary of Sociedades Bíblicas Unidas in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, is an *ex officio* member of this body.

As in the case of the Advisory Council of the United Bible Societies of Argentina, the chief objectives of the Council for Uruguay will be the promotion of the interests and work of the United Bible Societies. This includes the stimulation of the distribution and adequate use of the Holy Scriptures in all sectors of the community to which the work can be carried, and the encouragement of support by Churches and friends of the Bible Societies.

We are glad to report a lively interest and a very real enthusiasm on the part of the members of this new Advisory Council in the mission, program and opportunity of Sociedades Bíblicas Unidas in Uruguay. Evidence of this is the formation in March of a regional committee of the council in the city of Salto and plans now in process for the formation of similar committees in Paysandú and Mercedes.



# The Blind Rej

BY S. I.

*Break forth into joy, si  
for the Lord hath comf*



*Doris Francis prepares her Sunday-school lesson*



*Happy students at the North Carolina School for the Blind and Deaf, with their recently acquired Braille Bible*



*Thailand*



*Argentina*



*Korea*

S UDDEN or constant blindness very often can mean deep loneliness. Utter hopelessness, unlimited discouragement and even complete despair. But among the thousands of these handicapped with whom I have been in touch or whom it has been my privilege to meet and to know, I almost always find one characteristic—a strong desire to rise above what seems an unconquerable handicap. This, of course, is not a simple accomplishment; it requires fortitude, courage, strength and, above all, faith.

And this is where the Bible can change things. What the printed Word means to the sighted, the Braille Bible means to the sightless.

Many a blind person has been brought closer to God through his blindness. "I never realized what the Bible could do for me until I was struck with physical blindness," said a young blind man who recently called at the Bible House. "I used to think it was a good book, but rarely read it. Now it is a constant source of comfort and strength."

"I think my mom did a grand job learning to read the Braille. She is seventy-nine years old and is looking forward to reading her favorite passages and can scarcely wait until the beloved Bible volumes arrive," writes a grateful daughter.

A blind man appeals for an ink-print Bible for his wife so "she can keep up with me in the Braille!"

And a happy ten-year-old child, blind from birth, who takes part in reading the Sunday-



*Eleven-year-old Ji*



# n Their Bible

LETT

Places of Jerusalem:  
(2:52:9)

col-lesson passages from her Braille Bible, is a shining example  
of the sighted members of the class.

There are many blind ministers who with their helpmate, the  
Moon Bible, are constantly touching the hearts of those who regu-  
larly attend their services on Sunday morning. And seldom do  
handicapped preachers find themselves speaking to almost  
empty pews, for they are blessed with that inner vision and faith  
which imparts to their message a winsomeness that makes for regu-  
lar and eager attendance.

Braille Bible requires twenty large volumes occupying five and  
a half feet of shelf space, and the present cost  
of a complete Bible is \$60.

For those who are unable to read Braille,  
the Society offers the Moon Bible, which is in  
58 volumes and costs over \$200! This is a mod-  
ified raised-letter system, and while more  
bulky, is much easier to read by those who  
have less sensitive fingers.

A dear blind lady in California to whom the  
New Testament in Moon had been sent as a  
gift was delightfully surprised. For sixty years  
before blindness struck her, she had read the  
Bible through each year—the Old Testament  
once and the New Testament twice. She was  
so grateful for the Moon volumes that she  
saved up \$4 which she later sent “to be applied  
on her books or to help another blind person.”

There are about 250,000 blind persons in  
the United States. Many of these cannot read



Using the Braille

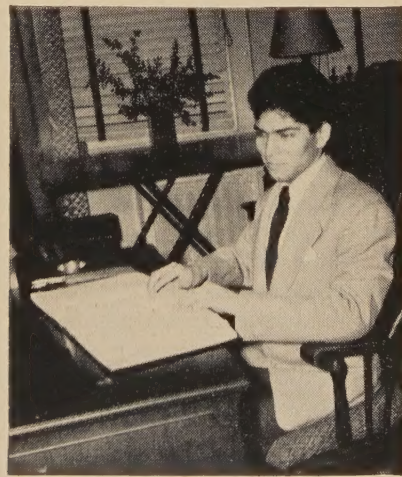
Japan



China



Mexico



Rev. Edward L. Kramer listening to his Bible  
records. His faithful dog “Spats” stands beside  
him



He receives joy and comfort daily, brought  
through his fingertips



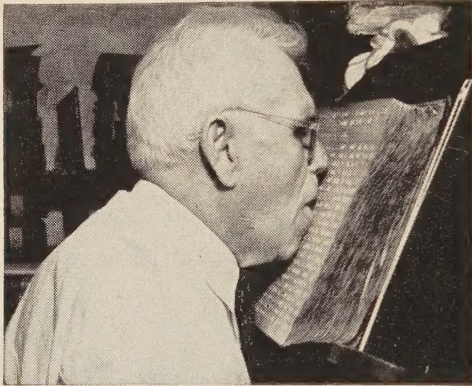


*Little Sarah is very happy, having just received her first volume of the New Testament*



*Blind Earl R. McCarty participating in a public reading of the New Testament*

*Blind and without hands for more than forty years, William McPherson reads the Moon Bible with his tongue*



any embossed system and for them the Society has the complete Bible on 169 Talking Book records. Thousands of these records have gone out to the sightless. A new recording of the New Testament has just been completed, and new recordings of the Old Testament Books are now in process.

Recently appealing for the Bible records, a blind man wrote: "Being rather lonely, walking in total darkness and not feeling very well, I think that I would get much spiritual comfort and inspiration from these Bible records, and I thank you very much for giving the blind an opportunity to have the rec-

ords. It is wonderful. I have few friends, and even fewer bother to come and visit me. I am sure the Bible will be a real friend."

The year 1949 was the greatest year in the Society's work for the blind. The embossed Scriptures have been distributed to the sightless in 34 different languages and systems. But increasing calls from the blind reveal the growing need, not only in the home land but in foreign lands, where conditions are even more deplorable. The Bible with its message of love and hope and inspiration is the favorite Book of the blind.

### Notes from Here and There

The Standing Committee of the United Bible Societies will meet in Matlock, England from June 13th to 16th. Secretary North, as Chairman of the Council, and Treasurer Darlington, as Assistant Treasurer of the United Societies, are members of this committee.

Secretary Collyer returned on April third from a trip to Cuba, Haiti, Central America and Mexico. A brief report of his observations will be included in the July issue of the Bible Society Record.

Rev. Evaldo Godinho Alves of the Independent Presby-

terian Church of Brazil is the new Executive Secretary of the Bible Society of Brazil. He succeeds Rev. Egmont M. Kriskke, who has been appointed a Bishop of the Episcopal Church.

Rev. J. C. F. Robertson of the China Bible House stands who has served at various times in Manchuria, Burma, West China and Korea, is now spending several months in Japan, giving assistance to the Japan Bible Society.

Mr. F. Lyman MacCallum, Secretary of the Bible Language Agency, North, and Rev. John Twentyman, Secretary of Peru and Ecuador, are on furlough this summer.



# Getting More Out of the Bible

This page is a reprint of one of the Society's new leaflets which may be secured by writing to the Bible House, 120 East 40th St., U. S. Bldg., 450 Park Avenue, New York. Samples free; quantities 35c per 100.

## FIRST OF ALL—

1. *Provide yourself with a Bible* that makes your reading free from physical strain—a book of convenient size and clear type, with good, clear print.

2. *Set aside a definite time* or amount of time every day for Bible reading, preferably at the beginning of the day. Consider that time as a daily appointment with God and keep it as an appointment faithfully.

3. *Read for your personal spiritual development*, with the definite purpose of making the Bible a practical guide to your life.

4. *Each day as you start to read, pray* that God's Holy Spirit will help you to understand what you read and apply the truth to your own life.

## WHAT TO READ

The Bible is a whole library of Books. The one Divine Author has used varied forms of literature and different human authors in the writing of it.

Any person may ask a librarian where to find certain writings or to offer him counsel on what to choose among the many books in a great library. Just so, Bible teachers have made helpful suggestions on what to read in the Bible. Here is a summary of how to get more out of your Bible reading:

1. *Begin with the New Testament*, preferably one of the Gospels, for in the Gospels Christ is fully portrayed. Because of its vivid, direct style and rapid action, Mark is suggested. Continue the story of the early growth of Christianity by reading the book of Acts. Complete the New Testament, reading the shorter letters first, then the longer, and finally the Book of Revelation.

2. *In the Old Testament* start with the human-interest stories of people in Genesis. Reach into the greatest of the Emotional Psalms. Then add to the Genesis stories the stories of people in succeeding Books, thus building the framework of the lives of these outstanding characters. After exploring the treasures of the Psalms, add the choice chapters and Books among the Prophets. Save for the last the longer prophetic Books and the portions you may have missed in the earlier books of history and law.

3. *Read by units of thought* rather than by chapters. The Book of Ruth is a good illustration. One of the most beautiful stories ever written, it takes about eighteen minutes to read the four chapters. The Book of Ruth should be

read at one sitting, and so most of the shorter Books of the Bible. Other units of thought are found within the longer Books: the story of Joseph in Genesis, chapters 37–50, and of Moses in Exodus, chapters 2–14. Each takes about an hour to read.

4. *Read the passages that mean most to you*, such as the Twenty-third Psalm and the fourteenth chapter of John, which are always helpful, no matter how often you read them. Keep searching for more of such passages. One way of doing this is by reading one of the shorter Books every day for a month. (Thirty-three of the sixty-six Books of the Bible can be read in from ten to forty-five minutes each, many of them in twenty minutes or less.) A Book may not seem very clear or helpful at first. But with each new reading more light will come, until at the end of the month you will have added another treasure to your personal "Bible within the Bible."

## HOW TO READ

1. *Read expectantly and thoughtfully*, asking, "What is God's message for me today?" In finding this personal message from God, three other questions will help: What does this passage teach me to believe?—teach me to become?—teach me to do? Remember that through the Bible God speaks to us. The more you are willing to listen, the more you can hear what He says.

2. *Read with imagination, unhurriedly*. Try to picture the scene or the setting. Try to conceive of the persons as living people.

3. *Use standard helps*, such as a reference Bible, commentaries, Bible dictionary and concordance. But do not let them take the place of reading the Bible itself.

4. *Do not be disturbed* if there are some passages which you do not understand. Be willing to dig for hidden treasure by repeated readings.

5. *Conserve the results* of your reading by keeping a notebook record of what you have read and the impressions you receive; by memorizing helpful passages or copying a key verse to carry with you for reference through the day.

6. *No matter how you feel, turn to the Bible each day*. It is not primarily a shelf of medicines for emergencies; it is a daily food for daily needs. But it never fails to have a message for us in the times of defeat and sorrow, fear and anxiety.

7. *Each day when you finish reading, pray again* that the Spirit of God may lead you: a prayer of thanksgiving for increased strength and blessing; a prayer of confession and repentance for your mistakes and failures; a prayer of petition for your daily needs; a prayer of intercession for the needs of others, including the Scripture needs of the world as yet unmet; a prayer of adoration as you think of God with wonder, love, praise and gratitude.



# ANY CHURCH CAN DO THIS

On this page, from time to time, will

appear suggestions and news items designated to help churches in their programs to emphasize the growing responsibility that devolves upon American Christians to get the Bible effectively distributed throughout the world. The editors solicit reports from the churches for this page.

## We Increased Our Membership by Fifty Percent

*How God's Word supported the testimony of Visitation Evangelists in a small Parish of Three Churches*

by JOHN K. FLEMING

THE Hedgesville pastorate in Berkeley County in the northeast tip of West Virginia has had a great blessing. Our Elder, who attended the Presbytery, came back enthusiastic about the possibilities of visitation evangelism. So we organized to that end, appointing a committee representing the Session, the diaconate, the women and the young people. I was authorized to enlist workers from the three churches of his circuit. Sixteen responded—four teams of men, three of women and one consisting of a college student and a high-school graduate. I preached for several Sundays on the general theme, "The Witnessing Church and the Witnessing Christian."

Two weeks before the visitation proper began, copies of the Book of Romans were secured from the American Bible Society and distributed to 125 prospects. Plans for a wide reading of this Book were carefully carried through. From the pulpit I asked every member of the congregation to read the Epistle during the next two weeks. The visitors were asked in addition to mark those passages which they found particularly helpful to themselves.

The visitors were then assigned a number of prospects and a corresponding number of copies of the Book of Romans. The first approach to the prospects was something like this: "Our members are reading Romans this week. Wouldn't you like to join us? Here is a copy. You will find some passages marked which I have found helpful in my own life. Perhaps you will find many passages you will like." This approach produced some encouraging results. The workers discovered not a few who were already inclining toward a decision. Letting God's Word add its testimony proved a powerful leverage.

The major drive for decisions began on a Sunday afternoon, following a meeting of the workers for instruction and prayer. At three o'clock, in good New Testament fashion, they went out two by two. Several decisions were made that first day. I remained at the church to receive reports especially on those who had expressed interest but had not come to their decisions. Some of these I visited. Others were reassigned to different teams. The work was continued for the next few weeks on Sunday afternoons and Thursday evenings. Every team had some good results either directly or indirectly.

There was a careful follow-up. I visited everyone who made a decision. All were invited to meet with the Ses-

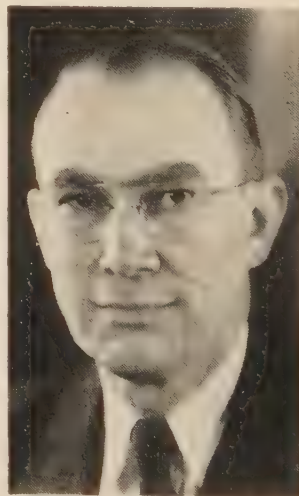
sion for reception into membership. One week before the reception those who had decided for Christ met with the Session and the visitation workers for instructions in the meaning of the Christian life and church membership.

The following Sunday was a day never to be forgotten. Thirty-eight were received into the church. Others came later. The total was fifty.

But that was not all. The workers without exception stated that they had received great spiritual help. Our attendance at both church and Sunday school was enlarged, and our finances strengthened. The church has since been able to add to its eldership, its diaconate, its church school faculty and its choir.

We found that to let our feeble testimony seek support from the testimony of God's own Word brought the sure results that blessed our efforts. Surely any church, large or small, can adopt such a program and find a similar blessing.

## A New Field Secretary



THE Reverend Walter Job Lake has been appointed a Field Secretary of the American Bible Society, with headquarters at 1506 Arrott Building, Pittsburgh, Pa., where he will succeed the late David J. Howell. In addition to local cultivation in Pittsburgh, Mr. Lake will give part of his time to making contacts with Northern Baptist Churches. He assumed his duties for the Society on April 15.

Mr. Lake was graduated from the Springfield Y.M.C. College *cum laude* in 1929 and took his B.D. degree at Drew Theological Seminary. Following a pastorate in Belleville, New Jersey, he was for nine years pastor of the First Baptist Church of Freehold, New Jersey. He was released from the Freehold pastorate for service as a chaplain in the U. S. Navy. Mr. Lake is married and has two children.



Annual Membership in the Society is secured through gift of \$5 or more for the carrying on of its work. Society also provides for Life Membership, Life Stewardship and Memorial Membership. Particulars may be sent on request. The editors welcome correspondence from members and devote this page in each issue to that purpose.]

## From Mt. Joy, Pennsylvania:

Enclosed you will find check of \$25 to make possible the distribution of more Bibles and Testaments. It is a privilege to help send the Word of Life to such needy places as Brazil, Japan, the Philippines. My nephew, who is teaching in one of the mountain high schools of Luzon, wrote me: "Through the helpfulness of the American Bible Society we are able to purchase, at discount prices, Bibles and Testaments in the Ilocano dialect." This literature is distributed in isolated mountain areas beyond the reach of roads.

## From St. Charles, Missouri:

Enclosed is a thank-offering of \$5 from my son Mark, age 12. This has been lying on my desk for several months, and it is a shame that I have not submitted it sooner. Last summer he had the misfortune to get a small piece of wood into the sole of his shoe, which remained there for several weeks. When it refused to drain out of itself, the doctor had to make an incision to remove it. When our copy of the *Word* comes, I read the letters from the "Members' Forum" for the family's evening devotions. When the doctor made no charge whatsoever for the treatments and dressings, I suggested to my son Mark that he ought to make a thank-offering of some kind. So one evening he came into my study with a five-dollar bill for the American Bible Society! May God bless him and those whom it will help to obtain the Bible that tells us of Him "who forgiveth all our iniquities, and healeth all of our diseases."

## From St. Joseph, Michigan:

The enclosed check for \$30 is sent you for Bibles for the Japanese. They killed my dear and splendid son, Wallace, who was a chief radio man, U.S. Navy, on October 25, 1944, during the battle of the Philippines; but being a Christian, I wish that lots of Bibles could be sent them just the same.

## From Eureka, South Dakota:

We heard your broadcast this morning, informing us about the situation in Japan and your great and timely work of Bible distribution there in response to the present need and call of the Japanese people. Enclosed find check for \$100 to support this worthy cause.

## From South Richmond, Virginia:

I am very much interested in the American Bible Society, having been a member for a year or two. Also enjoy reading the *Record* and would appreciate it if you will send it for one year to my brother, whose address I give you herewith. I would appreciate it if you will send me a button to wear on my coat. I enclose a check for \$30 to be used for distribution of Bibles and Testaments wherever they are needed.

The older I get the more I enjoy and appreciate the Bible and I want to make it possible for others to be able to do the same.

## From Readland, Arkansas:

I think the Bible Society is a wonderful organization. Although it is almost unbelievable, I had never heard of the Bible Society until I became an Intermediate. Then my Sunday-school teacher told us about the Society and its work. She brought us some old *Records* to read, and I have never enjoyed anything as much. The story of "Mr. Love of Siam" impressed me so deeply that I had to donate to your wonderful organization. I don't know how a person could spend money to any better advantage. Enclosed you will find \$5. I hope it will help someone to learn of the wonderful words and works of Our Lord.

## From Beatrice, Nebraska:

Enclosed please find my annual contribution to the Bible Society to be used wherever it is most needed, though I realize that \$100 doesn't go very far. If some of the billions being spent for war could be used for Bibles and for peace education, we would have more security than any atom bomb can ever give us.

## From Cleveland, Ohio:

I am sending you a check for \$25 for the work for the blind. My tithe is not large, and I try to meet all my pledges early in the year, as I do not have much lease on life now. I am a great booster for the American Bible Society, and consider my annuity the best investment I have ever made. Just received word that one of my old Bible classes has pledged \$10 a month for the work. May the dear Lord be very gracious to you in His service!

## From Warren, Pennsylvania:

Tonight I was reading the February issue of your publication and came across this article, "A Living Memorial." My mother went to be with her Maker last August, and I have been trying to decide what I would do or give in her memory ever since.

Please accept my check for \$50 as a living memorial to her to help spread the Gospel.



# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## Bible Society Record

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures*

**Editors: THE SECRETARIES**

*Address correspondence to the*

*Managing Editor*

**FRANCIS CARR STIFLER**

*450 Park Avenue*

*New York 22, N. Y.*



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### Daily Bible Readings

#### JUNE

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	Ruth	1	16	Luke	14
2	Ruth	2	17	Psalms	30
3	Ruth	3	18	Sunday	
4	Sunday			Psalms	32
	Ruth	4	19	Psalms	39
5	II Samuel	1:17-27	20	Psalms	40
6	II Samuel	18:19-33	21	Psalms	62
7	Job	1	22	Psalms	65
8	Job	28	23	Psalms	97
9	Ephesians	1	24	Luke	1:57-80
10	Ephesians	5	25	Sunday	
11	Sunday			Psalms	104
	Ephesians	6	26	Psalms	111
12	Luke	8:1-25	27	Psalms	118
13	Luke	8:26-56	28	Psalms	147
14	Luke	12:1-34	29	Matthew	16:13-28
15	Luke	13	30	Acts	12

#### JULY

Day	Book	Chapter	Day	Book	Chapter
1	I Corinthians	9	16	Sunday	
2	Sunday			Genesis	11:1-9
	I Corinthians	10	17	Acts	3
3	Deuteronomy		18	Acts	4:1-22
		10:12-22	19	Acts	4:23-37
4	Deuteronomy		20	Acts	6
		11:13-32	21	Acts	7:17-50
5	Jeremiah	18:1-12	22	Acts	8:1-25
6	Psalms	33	23	Sunday	
7	Psalms	46		Acts	8:26-40
8	Genesis	1	24	Acts	9:23-43
9	Sunday		25	Acts	10:1-33
	Genesis	2	26	Acts	11:19-30
10	Genesis	3	27	Acts	14
11	Genesis	4:1-15	28	Acts	19:23-41
12	Genesis	6	29	Acts	20:1-12
13	Genesis	7	30	Sunday	
14	Genesis	8		Acts	26
15	Genesis	9	31	Acts	27

### Additional Network Broadcasts

Besides Secretary Stifler's "Gems For Thought" series, which continues every Friday through September, the Society has been allotted the Tuesday spots on this same series through July 4th and possibly longer. On Tuesdays Secretary Henry H. Ragatz will be heard in interviews with prominent leaders in American life on their favorite Scripture passages and why they have chosen them. All of these programs on both *Tuesdays and Fridays* are heard in the mornings on the network at 8:45 E.D.T., except over the master station WJZ, New York, where it is heard at 8:55 E.D.T. The evening programs are heard on all stations at 11:55 E.D.T.

If, after making due adjustment for your time zone and for the possibility of a variation because of Daylight Saving Time, you do not get the programs, consult your local ABC outlet.

Leaflets describing the Friday series, which continues all summer, will be supplied in reasonable quantities to pastors and others who can use them.

Address American Bible Society, Radio Department, 450 Park Avenue, N.Y. 22, N.Y.

\* \*

### Visitors to the Bible House

Noteworthy among the many visitors to the Bible House during the month of March were Lord Luke of Pavenham, England and Lady Luke. Lord Luke is a Vice President of the British and Foreign Bible Society and the Treasurer of the United Bible Societies. He addressed the staff meeting at Bible House on March 24. Earlier in the month the Society welcomed both in Chicago and New York Rev. H. W. Arrowsmith and his delightful family. They were on their way to Australia, where Mr. Arrowsmith is Secretary-elect of the Commonwealth Council of the British Society there. Sir Arthur Dixon, Chairman of the Research Committee of the British Society, was also among the visitors in New York.

\* \*

Rev. Peter A. Voth, Secretary of the Society's Agency in Thailand spent part of January conferring with the officers at the Bible House. He is on a well-earned furlough. The year 1949 was one of uncertainty and tension in Thailand but Mr. Voth was glad to report a distribution during the year of 202 Bibles, 636 New Testaments, and 218,210 Portions, a total of 219,051 volumes.

### April Meeting of the Board

A meeting of the Board of Managers of the American Bible Society in its one hundred and thirty-fourth year was held at the Bible House, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, on Thursday, April 13, 1950, at 3:30 p.m., Daniel Burke, LL.D. in the Chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Secretary Francis C. Stifler.

The death of the Rev. Dr. Ernest Brennecke on April 5, 1950 was reported and a committee was appointed to prepare a Memorial Minute to be presented to the Board at its next meeting. Dr. Brennecke had served for many years on the Versions Committee.

The Annual Report of the Board of Managers was approved for printing and presentation to the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 11.

The resignation of Mr. William Wilson as a member of the Board of Managers was accepted with deep regret.

The resignation of Rev. Oscar D. Carson as Secretary of the Richmond Division of the American Bible Society was accepted as of March 25, 1950.

Secretary Collyer reported on his recent trip to Cuba, Haiti, Central America and Mexico.

Word from Secretary Mortensen of the China Agency in Shanghai was reported. Dr. Mortensen stating that there is a wonderful spirit abroad for the work of the Bible Society and that no great difficulties are anticipated.

A grant of 900 French Second Bible and 100 French Synodale Bibles was authorized to the American Mennonite Brethren Mission at Matende, Belgian Congo, for distribution on the Sale and Distribution Plan.

A grant of 1,500 Luvale New Testament on the Sale and Distribution Plan for Northern Rhodesia was also authorized.

\* \*

### Next Issue

There will be, as formerly, no June issue of the Bible Society Record. The July issue, which will reach subscribers about August 1, will contain special material recognizing the completion of 50 years of work in the Philippine Islands.

To EDITORS: *The Bible Society Record* invites reprinting of its articles in whole or in part. Its contents are not copyrighted.



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New York City 22—Bible House, 450 Park Avenue.....New York, New Jersey, Penna., Del., Maryland, D. C., Virginia, W. Va.  
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Indies—Rev. J. Gonzales Molina, Neptuno  
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Mexico City  
Central America—Rev. Raymond R. Gregory, Bible  
House, Box J, Cristóbal, Canal Zone  
Venezuela—(Acting) Rev. Raymond R. Greg-  
ory, Bible House, Box J, Cristóbal, Canal Zone  
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58 Hongkong Rd., Shanghai, China  
Japan Bible Society—Mr. T. Miyakoda, General Secretary,  
Bible House, 2 Shichome, Ginza, Tokyo

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—Rev. Hammond I. Peterson, 19 Pine St., Portland 4  
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